(b) Does not arise.

(c) The rates of travelling allowance were increased *w. e. f.* 1.10.1997 and no further increase is considered necessary at this stage.

Opening of SBI branch in Jangla, Shimla

†2246. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE **be** pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open the branch of the S.B.I, at Jangla in the district of Shimla so that the retired employees, farmers and business persons could reap benefit thereof;

(b) whether the people of five Panchayats area would be benefited in case the branch of State Bank of India is opened in Jangla;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Growth in Power and Telecom Sector

2247. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an analysis has revealed that power and telecom sectors have not registered growth;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Both Power and Telecom sectors have, in fact, registered growth during recent past.

Index of Industrial Growth

2248. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Index of Industrial production growth during April to August, 2003 and that during April and August, 2002;

(b) the export growth during April-September,2003 and that during 2002-2003;

(c) the growth in bank credit during April-September, 2003 and that during 2002-2003;

(d) whether on the basis of this can it be inferred that India has entered a higher growth path on a sustainable basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) The growth rate in the Index of Industrial Production in April-August 2003 and April-August 2002 are as follows:

Period	Growth Rates (%)
April-August 2003	5.9
April-August 2002	5.2

(b) Export growth rates (in US $ terms) are as given in the following Table;

Period	Growth Rates (%)
April-Sept. 2003	9.99
2002-2003 (Full year)	20.29